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Government  
Publications



Polar continental shelf  
project, 1995-1996



# POLAR CONTINENTAL SHELF PROJECT

Government  
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1995 – 1996

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Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Canada

# POLAR CONTINENTAL SHELF PROJECT



- > provides cost-effective, coordinated logistics advice and support to Canadian government, university and independent groups, and on a cost-recovery basis, to private sector and non-Canadian groups that conduct scientific research programs in the Arctic; and
- > provides information about scientific operations in the Arctic to clients, northern inhabitants, and the general public.



# message from the minister



For almost 40 years, Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP) has helped Canada maintain its sovereignty in the Arctic through peaceful means.

During 1995-96, PCSP of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), has continued to reflect the Government of Canada's commitment to the sustainable development of our natural resources and cost-effective service delivery.

In partnership with other federal departments, territorial government research groups, Canadian universities, and foreign research groups, PCSP coordinated support in the Arctic for more than 170 scientific research projects in the areas of sustainable resource development and environmental protection.

For example, one project in the High Arctic cleaned up 10 000 old oil drums in a cooperative venture with the departments of National Defence and Environment Canada. PCSP also provided elders of Pond Inlet, Northwest Territories, with the logistics to start a pilot project for a Traditional Knowledge Program. And through supply and service purchases in 1995-96, PCSP contributed \$1.7 million to the economy of northern communities.

These activities demonstrate NRCan's continued dedication to providing opportunities that stimulate job creation and economic growth in northern and remote regions of our country while promoting the responsible use of our natural resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Anne McLellan".

A. Anne McLellan



# HIGHLIGHTS

## from fiscal year 1995/96



- > In all, PCSP coordinated and managed cost-effective logistics support for 179 scientific research projects conducted in the Canadian Arctic in support of sustainable renewable and non-renewable resource development and environmental protection programs. These included a federal government hydrographic survey of the Coronation Gulf to help identify safe shipping routes in support of the mining industry and Government of the Northwest Territories. PCSP also supported a variety of geological mapping programs throughout the Northwest Territories to assist and encourage mineral exploration, including a major initiative on south Baffin Island; data released to date have stimulated great interest within the mineral exploration industry.
- > PCSP continued to work in partnership with its many client groups to maximize cost-sharing for services rendered and cost-recoveries from non-Canadian users. PCSP recovered 44 per cent – \$2.6 million – of total logistics expenditures from its federal and territorial government clients and from foreign sources.
- > PCSP renewed its Memoranda of Understanding with the Nunavut Research Institute in the eastern Arctic and the Aurora Research Institute in the western Arctic; these agreements identify areas of cooperation among the agencies involved. As well, in an effort to minimize duplication of effort and to reduce the respective operating costs, PCSP and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service renewed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding governing shared fixed-wing aircraft services in the eastern Arctic.
- > In partnership with National Defence and Environment Canada, PCSP participated in a joint venture to clean up more than 10 000 empty and unused oil drums from abandoned Arctic field sites.
- > In 1995, PCSP initiated a program to provide logistics support directly to Arctic community groups conducting traditional knowledge studies. A pilot project was successfully completed with the community of Pond Inlet; PCSP's Traditional Knowledge Program will be implemented fully in 1996.
- > PCSP contributed \$1.7 million to the northern economy through purchases of supplies and services from northern companies and communities, including many aboriginal-owned businesses.
- > Within the context of diminishing resources, PCSP reduced overhead at its Arctic bases by 30 per cent. On-site base staff assumed additional responsibilities for operations and maintenance in order to reduce expenses.



# SERVICES:



The heart of PCSP's logistics system are its bases at Resolute Bay in the eastern Arctic, and at Tuktoyaktuk in the western Arctic. PCSP coordinates aircraft and other field requirements for scientists conducting research into such disciplines as archaeology, anthropology, biology, botany, environment, oceanography and geology. PCSP annually provides cost-effective support to more than 140 research groups from more than 40 different agencies.

# BACKGROUND:

Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP) was created in 1958 in large part to help Canada establish, and subsequently to maintain, its sovereignty in the Arctic through peaceful means.

Over the years, it has done so by helping thousands of scientists work in otherwise inaccessible locations in the North, and to learn about a region covering more than one-third of Canada's landmass and offshore – a region that stretches from the country's borders with the United States and Greenland up to the geographic North Pole. Those scientists have helped to define Canada's offshore limits and to establish Canada's claims to offshore hydrocarbon and mineral resources.

The knowledge gained has also helped to identify safe shipping routes into northern communities, to establish National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, to identify pollution sources and their effects on the northern food chain, and to preserve and record the traditional knowledge of the North's aboriginal inhabitants.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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